



Testimony of Ashley Zane
Government Affairs Associate, CBIA
Before the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement
Hartford, CT
February 22, 2022

Testifying in support of:

SB 19: AN ACT CONCERNING THE OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES OF MILITARY MEMBERS' SPOUSES.

My name is Ashley Zane and I am a Government Affairs Associate for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. CBIA is Connecticut's largest business organization, with thousands of member companies, small and large, representing a diverse range of industries from across the state. Ninety-five percent of CBIA member companies have 100 or fewer employees.

I am here in support of SB 19, An Act Concerning the Occupational and Professional Licenses of Military Members' Spouses. This bill allows the licensing body in the state to issue professional licenses spouses of military members who have held a professional license for at least one year and in good standing. It also requires the individual to pay all fees and complete all required testing before the license can be issued.

CBIA strongly supports this effort to remove barriers to the recognition of out of state professional licenses. This bill will help increase the eligible workforce and encourage continued migration into our state. Ninety percent of military spouses are female with one third of these spouses working in licensed fields. Barriers to licensure can create significant employment challenges and dissuade these individuals from making Connecticut their home.

SB 19 makes it clear to residents of other states that Connecticut is open for business. With increasing job deficits in high-paying sectors, the state should be encouraging skilled workers to come here. CBIA continues to support the ability for a Commissioner to deny a license in order to maintain the public safety and health of residents. Connecticut has some of the highest standards across the country for licensure which does result in some of the highest quality work products in the country. This bill strikes a balance between ensuring quality and streamlining the process.

We urge the committee to support SB 19, and we are happy to address any question or concerns.